

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
TRANSPORTATION

JULY 1999

**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. William B. O'Gara, Chair*

*Sen. Judy Paradis*

*Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy*

*Rep. Joseph M. Jabar, Sr., Chair*

*Rep. Gerald N. Bouffard*

*Rep. Charles D. Fisher*

*Rep. Gary J. Wheeler*

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*Rep. Edgar Wheeler*

*Rep. Ronald F. Collins*

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**ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees**  
**August 1999**

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet ([www.state.me.us/legis/opla](http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla)).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

*CARRIED OVER*.....Bill carried over to Second Regular Session  
*CON RES XXX*..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died  
*DIED BETWEEN BODIES*.....House & Senate disagree; bill died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died  
*EMERGENCY*..... Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days  
*ENACTMENT FAILED*..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died  
*INDEF PP*.....Bill Indefinitely Postponed  
*ONTP*..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted  
*OTP ND*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft  
*OTP ND/NT*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title  
*P&S XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law  
*PUBLIC XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve  
*UNSIGNED*.....Bill held by Governor  
*VETO SUSTAINED*.....Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

**LD 202**

**An Act to Abolish the Maine Turnpike Authority**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BROOKS	ONTP	

LD 202 proposed to abolish the Maine Turnpike Authority and transfers its duties to the Department of Transportation.

**LD 210**

**An Act to Require Mandatory All-way Stops at Intersections with Nonfunctional Electrical Traffic Signals**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHIELDS	ONTP	

LD 210 proposed to require drivers to stop at intersections with traffic lights that are broken.

**LD 216**

**An Act to Prohibit the Transportation of Open Containers that Contain Liquor**

**PUBLIC 293**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'NEIL	OTP-AM	H-134 H-345 JABAR

LD 216 proposed to prohibit the transport of an open container of liquor by vehicle.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-134)** proposed to replace the bill and to prohibit the operator of and passengers in a vehicle on a public way, including a right-of-way, from consuming alcohol or possessing an open alcoholic beverage container. The amendment proposed to make the operator responsible for the violation and included exceptions for vehicles without trunks, vehicles designed for hire other than taxicabs and vehicles with living quarters. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

**House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-345)** proposed to add an exemption for licensed off-site catering services to the provisions of the committee amendment dealing with transportation of opened containers of alcohol and proposed to amend the law pertaining to private transportation of partially consumed bottles of table wine to require that they be transported in compliance with the open container law proposed in the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 293, prohibits the operators and passengers in a vehicle on a public way, including a right-of-way, from consuming alcohol or possessing an open alcoholic beverage container. The operator responsible for any violation of this law. Exceptions are provided for vehicles without trunks, vehicles designed for hire, other than taxicabs, vehicles with living quarters and vehicles engaged in providing licensed off-site catering services.